

I CLAIM:

1. A dry-cleaning article for use in a drying machine, the dry-cleaning article comprising:

a carrier adapted to receive and selectively dispense a dry-cleaning composition; and

a dry-cleaning composition received by the carrier, wherein the dry-cleaning composition includes active components comprising water and at least one organic solvent, and further wherein the at least one organic solvent forms the greatest individual percentage by weight of the active components.

2. The dry-cleaning article of claim 1, wherein the at least one organic solvent is selected from the group consisting of paraffins, olefins, acetylenes, siloxanes, acetates, chloro-fluorocarbons, glycols and mixtures thereof.

3. The dry-cleaning article of claim 1, wherein the at least one organic solvent is noncarcinogenic.

4. The dry-cleaning article of claim 1, wherein the at least one organic solvent is non-toxic in the concentration present in the composition.

5. The dry-cleaning article of claim 1, wherein the at least one organic solvent forms the greatest individual percentage by weight of all of the components in the composition.

6. The dry-cleaning article of claim 1, wherein the at least one organic solvent forms at least 50% by weight of the active components of the composition.

7. The dry-cleaning article of claim 6, wherein the at least one organic solvent forms at least 50% by weight of the composition.

8. The dry-cleaning article of claim 1, wherein the water constitutes less than approximately 45% by weight of the active components of the composition.

9. The dry-cleaning article of claim 8, wherein the water constitutes less than approximately 45% by weight of all of the components of the composition.

10. The dry-cleaning article of claim 8, wherein the water constitutes between approximately 0% and approximately 40% by weight of the active components of the composition.

11. The dry-cleaning article of claim 10, wherein the water constitutes between approximately 0% and approximately 40% by weight of all of the components of the composition.

12. The dry-cleaning article of claim 1, wherein the active components further include at least one emulsifier.

13. The dry-cleaning article of claim 12, wherein the at least one emulsifier includes a nonionic component and an anionic component.

14. The dry-cleaning article of claim 13, wherein the at least one emulsifier includes a greater concentration of the nonionic component than the anionic component.

15. The dry-cleaning article of claim 12, wherein the at least one emulsifier forms between approximately 0.001% and approximately 14% by weight of the active components.

16. The dry-cleaning article of claim 12, wherein the at least one emulsifier forms between approximately 0.001% and approximately 14% by weight of all of the components of the composition.

17. The dry-cleaning article of claim 1, wherein the active components further include at least one surfactant.

18. The dry-cleaning article of claim 17, wherein the at least one surfactant forms between approximately 0.001% and approximately 5% by weight of the active components.

19. The dry-cleaning article of claim 17, wherein the at least one surfactant includes an anionic surfactant.

20. The dry-cleaning article of claim 17, wherein the at least one surfactant includes a nonionic surfactant.

21. The dry-cleaning article of claim 17, wherein the at least one surfactant includes a fluorosurfactant.

22. The dry-cleaning article of claim 1, wherein the active components further include at least one perfume.

23. The dry-cleaning article of claim 22, wherein the at least one perfume forms between approximately 0.001% and approximately 5% by weight of the active components.

24. The dry-cleaning article of claim 1, wherein the composition has a flashpoint greater than approximately 150° F.

25. The dry-cleaning article of claim 1, wherein the composition has a flashpoint greater than approximately 170° F.

26. The dry-cleaning article of claim 1, wherein the composition has a flashpoint greater than approximately 200° F.

27. The dry-cleaning article of claim 1, wherein the composition has a flashpoint greater than approximately 232° F.

28. The dry-cleaning article of claim 1, wherein the article is adapted for use in a drying machine having a maximum operating temperature and the composition has a flashpoint greater than the maximum operating temperature of the drying machine.

29. The dry-cleaning article of claim 1, wherein the article is adapted for use in a non-pressurized drying machine.

30. The dry-cleaning article of claim 1, wherein the article is adapted for use in a household drying machine.

31. The dry-cleaning article of claim 1, wherein the article is adapted for use in a drying machine normally adapted to dry wet garments from a washing machine.

32. The dry-cleaning article of claim 1, wherein the article includes a fluid-impermeable container housing the carrier and the composition.

33. The dry-cleaning article of claim 1, wherein the carrier is an absorbent carrier.

34. The dry-cleaning article of claim 33, wherein the dry-cleaning composition is permeated in the carrier.

35. The dry-cleaning article of claim 34, wherein the article includes a fluid-impermeable container housing the carrier and the composition.

36. The dry-cleaning article of claim 33, wherein the carrier is a sheet.

37. The dry-cleaning article of claim 36, wherein the carrier is a pliable sheet.

38. The dry-cleaning article of claim 36, wherein the carrier is an absorbent sheet.

39. The dry-cleaning article of claim 38, wherein the absorbent sheet includes at least one of a non-woven fabric, paper towel, open-cell foam or fibrous batting.



40. The dry-cleaning article of claim 39, wherein the absorbent sheet includes a plurality of slits.

41. The dry-cleaning article of claim 40, wherein the absorbent sheet includes an impermeable layer.

42. The dry-cleaning article of claim 1, wherein the carrier includes a binder adapted to mix with the dry-cleaning composition and form a solid object.

43. The dry-cleaning article of claim 42, wherein the binder includes a gelling agent.

44. The dry-cleaning article of claim 1, wherein the carrier includes at least one container adapted to receive and store a volume of the composition, and further wherein each of the at least one containers includes a sealable closure.

45. The dry-cleaning article of claim 44, wherein the sealable closure is a resealable closure.

46. The dry-cleaning article of claim 44, wherein the carrier further includes an absorbent material adapted to receive and selectively dispense at least a portion of the volume of the composition from the at least one container.

47. The dry-cleaning article of claim 46, wherein the absorbent material includes a sheet-like material.

48. The dry-cleaning article of claim 46, wherein the absorbent material includes at least one of a sheet, towel and towelette.

49. The dry-cleaning article of claim 1, wherein the article further includes at least one application-specific composition.

50. The dry-cleaning article of claim 49, wherein the at least one application-specific composition is received and selectively dispensed by the carrier.

51. The dry-cleaning article of claim 49, wherein the at least one application-specific composition is received and selectively dispensed by the carrier with the dry-cleaning composition.

52. The dry-cleaning article of claim 49, wherein the at least one application-specific composition is received by the carrier separate from the dry-cleaning composition.

53. The dry-cleaning article of claim 52, wherein the carrier is adapted to prevent mixing of the dry-cleaning composition and the at least one application-specific composition.

54. The dry-cleaning article of claim 49, wherein the application-specific composition includes a brightener.

55. The dry-cleaning article of claim 49, wherein the application-specific composition is adapted to remove food stains.

56. The dry-cleaning article of claim 49, wherein the application-specific composition is adapted to remove wine stains.

57. The dry-cleaning article of claim 49, wherein the application-specific composition includes a moth repellant.

58. The dry-cleaning article of claim 49, wherein the application-specific composition includes a UV-inhibitor.

59. The dry-cleaning article of claim 49, wherein the application-specific composition includes a rust remover.

60. The dry-cleaning article of claim 49, wherein the application-specific composition includes an odor remover.

61. The dry-cleaning article of claim 49, wherein the application-specific composition includes an ink remover.

62. The dry-cleaning article of claim 49, wherein the application-specific composition includes a dewrinkler.

63. A dry-cleaning composition adapted for use in a drying machine, the dry-cleaning composition comprising:

at least one organic solvent selected from the group consisting of paraffins, olefins, acetylenes, siloxanes, acetates, chloro-fluorocarbons, glycols and mixtures thereof, and further wherein the at least one organic solvent forms the greatest individual percentage by weight of the composition;

water; and

at least one emulsifier.

64. The dry-cleaning composition of claim 63, wherein the at least one organic solvent is noncarcinogenic.

65. The dry-cleaning composition of claim 63, wherein the at least one organic solvent is non-toxic in the concentration present in the composition.

66. The dry-cleaning composition of claim 63, wherein the at least one organic solvent forms at least 50% by weight of the composition.

67. The dry-cleaning composition of claim 63, wherein the composition is permeated into an absorbent material.

68. The dry-cleaning composition of claim 63, wherein the composition is received into and selectively dispensed by a container.

69. A method for cleaning garments, the method comprising:  
placing at least one garment to be cleaned and a dry-cleaning composition in a drying machine normally adapted for drying wet garments from a washing machine, wherein the dry-cleaning composition comprises:  
at least one organic solvent;  
water, wherein the at least one organic solvent forms the greatest individual weight percentage of the dry-cleaning composition; and  
tumbling the at least one garment and the dry-cleaning composition in the drying machine in heated air generated by the machine.

70. The method of claim 69, wherein the at least one organic solvent is selected from the group consisting of paraffins, olefins, acetylenes, siloxanes, acetates, chloro-fluorocarbons, glycols and mixtures thereof.

71. The method of claim 69, wherein the at least one organic solvent forms at least 50% by weight of the composition.



72. The method of claim 69, wherein the drying machine is a household drying machine.

73. The method of claim 69, wherein the drying machine is a nonpressurized drying machine.

74. The method of claim 73, wherein the composition is permeated into an absorbent material and the placing step includes placing the at least one garment and the absorbent material permeated with the composition in the drying machine.

75. The method of claim 74, wherein in the drying machine the absorbent material and the at least one garment may tumble freely with each other.

76. The method of claim 74, wherein the method further includes placing the at least one garment and the absorbent material into a container prior to placing the at least one garment and the absorbent material into the drying machine, and then placing the container, the at least one garment, and the absorbent material permeated with the dry-cleaning composition into the drying machine.

77. The method of claim 76, wherein the container is an air-permeable container.